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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ADMINISTRATION

1937 AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM - - - - - NORTHEAST REGION

18 WAYS TO CONSERVE SOIL AND
QUALIFY FOR PAYMENTS IN MASSACHUSETTS

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TO MASSACHUSETTS FARMERS:

By doing one or more of these 18 things, you can qualify for payments under the 1937 agricultural conservation program. The payments will cover part of the out-of-pocket cost of using the practices. This leaflet gives the rates of payment for each practice and tells just what to do to be eligible for a payment. The payments and rates listed are contingent upon Congress making available for 1937 the full amount of money authorized in the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act.

A top limit will be established for the amount of money which may be earned by adopting soil-building practices on any one farm. "The Soil-Building Allowance" (p. 2) tells how to figure out what the allowance will be for your farm. "Applying for Payment" (p. 8) and "Other Points Affecting Payment" (p. 9) also contain information you will need. Terms such as "cropland" and "open noncrop pasture" have definite meanings in this program. These and other terms are defined on page 10.

A tobacco grower in any county will need the information in the section on tobacco diversion, page 7.

After you find out just how the program will help you carry out your plans for good farming, you will need to discuss the plans with your county agent or committeeman, to make sure that what you intend to do can be approved as good farming for your particular land.

Probably there is nothing unfamiliar in the list of soil-building practices. All of them are suited to conditions in Massachusetts and have been encouraged by the State extension service. Many successful farmers have been using them for years. Liming, for instance, is needed for sweetening acid soils. The soil on many farms in the State needs either phosphoric acid, or potash or nitrogen, or combinations of the three to supply the proper plant food. Turning under green-manure crops enriches the soil.

The national agricultural conservation program aims at conserving and improving national farm resources. The program for Massachusetts carries out the principles of the national program in ways especially suited to Massachusetts.

Two kinds of payment are offered. Farmers in all parts of the State will be eligible for soil-building payments.

Tobacco farmers in the State also will be eligible for payments for shifting some of their tobacco soil-depleting base acreage from tobacco to soil-conserving crops.

THE SOIL-BUILDING ALLOWANCE

Farmers who properly carry out one or more approved soil-building practices will be eligible for payments within the limits of their soil-building allowances. The soil-building allowance is the total amount which may be earned by adopting soil-building practices on a farm. A farmer may earn all or part of his allowance, depending on the approved practices he uses. But he cannot earn more than his allowance, no matter how many practices he uses. Every farm *not eligible* to earn tobacco-diversion payments will have an allowance of at least \$20, even if the items listed below do not add up to that amount. Farms *eligible* to earn tobacco-diversion payments will have a soil-building allowance of at least \$10.

Nondiversion farms.—The following items will be included in calculating the soil-building allowance for any farm which does not grow tobacco, or for any farm with a tobacco soil-depleting base of 5 acres or less if no application is made for a tobacco-diversion payment:

\$1 for every acre of cropland.

\$1 additional for each acre of commercial orchards cultivated on the farm on January 1, 1937.

\$1 additional for each acre of cropland on which *only one* crop of commercial vegetables was grown in 1936.

\$2 additional for each acre of cropland on which *two or more* crops of commercial vegetables were grown on the same acreage in 1936.

40 cents for each acre of fenced noncrop open pasture land in excess of one-half of the number of acres of cropland on the farm.

Diversion farms.—The following items will be included in calculating the soil-building allowance for any farm with a tobacco soil-depleting base of more than 5 acres, or any farm with a smaller tobacco soil-depleting base for which an application is made for a tobacco-diversion payment:

\$1 for each acre of cropland, *minus* the number of acres normally in soil-depleting crops, and *plus* the number of acres diverted for payment. (The normal soil-depleting acreage for a farm will be the general soil-depleting base which was or could have been established in 1936, plus the 1937 tobacco soil-depleting base.

\$1 additional for each acre of commercial orchards cultivated on the farm on January 1, 1937.

\$1 additional for each acre of cropland on which *only one* crop of commercial vegetables was grown in 1936.

\$2 additional for each acre of cropland on which *two or more* crops of commercial vegetables were grown on the same acreage in 1936.

40 cents for each acre of fenced noncrop open pasture land in excess of one-half of the number of acres of cropland on the farm.

SOIL-BUILDING PRACTICES

A farmer may choose and carry out any one or more of the 17 approved soil-building practices which will help to improve his particular farm. If a practice calls for the use of specific materials (such as limestone) he may substitute equivalent amounts of any other material which serves the same purpose, and still qualify for payment.

LIMING CROPLAND AND PASTURE

Practice No. 1.—RATE OF PAYMENT: In Area A, \$1.50 per 1,000 pounds; in Area B, \$2 per 1,000 pounds.

Applying 1,000 to 6,000 pounds of ground limestone or its equivalent, per acre, to crop or pasture land.

Area A includes Berkshire County and area B includes all other counties in the State.

Ground limestone is limestone which will analyze at least 80 percent carbonates, 90 percent of which will pass through a 20-mesh sieve and 50 percent of which will pass through a 100-mesh sieve.

The equivalent of 1,000 pounds of ground limestone is either (a) 750 pounds of hydrated lime or (b) an approved amount of other approved material.

The lime in basic slag should be computed on the same basis as the lime in limestone.

FERTILIZING CONSERVING CROPS WITH PHOSPHORIC ACID, POTASH, OR NITROGEN

Applying phosphoric acid, potash, or nitrogen, or approved combinations of these materials to established sod (in pastures, orchards, or hay lands) or in connection with the seeding of biennial or perennial legumes or green-manure crops.

Payment will not be made for the application of available phosphoric acid or potash in excess of 120 pounds each per acre or for nitrogen applied to green-manure crops in excess of 16 pounds per acre.

Practice No. 2.—RATE OF PAYMENT: 4 cents per pound for available PHOSPHORIC ACID.

When phosphoric acid is applied in connection with a seeding made in a nurse crop which is harvested for grain, the payment will be made only for amounts of phosphoric acid in excess of 32 pounds per acre. Payments will also be made for phosphoric acid when added to farm manures as a preservative and reinforcement in approved amounts when such farm manures are for use on established sod or in connection with the seeding of biennial or perennial legumes or green-manure crops.

When phosphoric acid is added to farm manure it is recommended that one pound of 16 percent superphosphate per cow per day be used in the gutter, that from 30 to 50 pounds per ton of manure be added when used in the stable, or that 30 pounds per hundred hens per month be added to poultry manure.

It is recommended that not more than 48 pounds of available phosphoric acid per acre be used for top-dressing legume or grass sod or for fertilizing green-manure crops, and that not more than 120 pounds of available phosphoric acid per acre be used for new seeding as described in practices nos. 5 and 6.

Practice No. 3.—RATE OF PAYMENT: 3 cents per pound for available POTASH.

It is recommended that not more than the following amounts of potash be used for the purpose indicated:

100 pounds per acre for top-dressing legume sod.

50 pounds per acre for top-dressing grass sod or for fertilizing legume green-manure crops.

120 pounds per acre for fertilizing new seedings described in practices nos. 5 and 6.

25 pounds per acre for fertilizing the green-manure crops specified in practice no. 7.

Practice No. 4.—RATE OF PAYMENT: 4 cents per pound for available NITROGEN.

No payment will be made for nitrogen in any use in excess of 32 pounds per acre, or for nitrogen applied to hay land in excess of 24 pounds per acre.

SEEDING CLOVER

Practice No. 5.—RATE OF PAYMENT, \$2 per acre.

Seeding adapted domestic or Canadian medium red clover or mixtures containing at least 5 pounds per acre of such medium red clover seed or its equivalent in other clover seed, on land prepared for this seeding by the application of amounts of lime and fertilizer specified through the county committee, or on land without such application when soil tests or other evidence satisfactory to the committee indicate that the application is not needed.

Recommended equivalents of 5 pounds of medium red clover are 8 pounds of white sweet clover, 2 pounds of white Dutch clover, 4 pounds of alsike clover, or 2 pounds of Ladino clover.

SEEDING ALFALFA

Practice No. 6.—RATE OF PAYMENT, \$3 per acre.

Seeding hardy northern-grown domestic or Canadian alfalfa such as Grimm or Ontario variegated, or mixtures containing at least 8 pounds of such alfalfa seed per acre, on land prepared for this seeding by application of amounts of lime and fertilizer specified through the county committee, or on land without such application when soil tests or other evidence satisfactory to the committee indicate that the application is not needed.

GROWING SMALL GRAINS OR ANNUAL GRASSES AS GREEN-MANURE CROPS

Practice No. 7.—RATE OF PAYMENT, \$1.50 per acre.

Plowing or disking under small grains or annual grasses or mixtures of these with legumes after they have attained at least 2 months' or 12 inches' growth.

GROWING LEGUMES AS GREEN-MANURE CROPS

Practice No. 8.—RATE OF PAYMENT, \$2.50 per acre.

Plowing or disking under biennial legumes or perennial legumes for which no seeding payment will be made or has been made under this or any previous program, and from which no crop has been harvested, and which have attained at least 2 months' or 12 inches' growth, or annual legumes which have attained such growth.

OTHER WAYS TO USE GREEN-MANURE PRACTICES

When green-manure crops are turned under on land that normally is used for the production of *commercial vegetables*, so that at least one crop of commercial vegetables is replaced, the rates of payment for practices nos. 7 and 8 will be doubled.

When annual grains are clipped green and left on land that normally is used for the production of commercial vegetables, and no crop is removed from the land in 1937, the following *substitute practice* may be used: If the clipped grains are followed by legume crops specified in practice No. 8, and the legumes are left on the land for the remainder of the 1937 growing season, it will not be necessary to turn under either crop. Clipping the grains takes the place of turning them under, and leaving the legumes on the land takes the place of turning them under. The provision for doubled rates still will apply.

Leaving the entire crop on the land during the winter may be substituted for the plowing or disking under in practices nos. 7 and 8 if the crop is one that is normally winter-killed.

MULCHING ORCHARDS

Practice No. 9.—RATE OF PAYMENT, \$2 per ton for not more than 5 tons per acre.

Applying to orchards not less than 2 tons per acre of mulching material in addition to leaving in the orchard all materials produced

therein during 1937 from grass, legumes, green-manure, and cover crops.

PLANTING FOREST TREES

Practice No. 10.—RATE OF PAYMENT, \$10 per acre.

Planting transplanted forest trees of approved varieties at the rate of at least 1,000 trees per acre.

Species of forest trees recommended for planting are: Red pine, white pine, balsam fir, red spruce, white spruce, and Norway spruce. Other varieties may be planted if the county committee, upon advice of the State extension forester, approves the selection.

IMPROVING WOODLANDS

Practice No. 11.—RATE OF PAYMENT, \$3 per acre.

Improving the stand of forest trees by cutting weed trees or thinning or pruning other trees, to develop at least 100 potential timber trees of desirable species, well distributed, over each acre of woodland. Operators shall obtain approval before performing this practice.

The following are recommended as desirable species for development:

Red pine	Black cherry	Yellow birch	Basswood
White pine	Sugar maple	Black birch	Hickory
Spruce	White maple	Beech	Elm
Fir	Red maple	White ash	
Hemlock	Tulip poplar	Red oak	
Cedar	White birch	White oak	

BUILDING 2-STRAND WOODLAND PASTURE FENCE

Practice No. 12.—RATE OF PAYMENT, 15 cents per rod.

Constructing fence consisting of not less than two strands of wire, with posts or other suitable supports not more than 1 rod apart, to exclude livestock from farm woodlands previously used for pasture.

BUILDING 3-STRAND WOODLAND PASTURE FENCE

Practice No. 13.—RATE OF PAYMENT, 20 cents per rod.

Constructing fence consisting of not less than three strands of wire with posts or other suitable supports not more than 1 rod apart, to exclude livestock from farm woodlands previously used for pasture.

MAINTAINING SOIL ON CRANBERRY BOGS

Applying sand, free from stones or loam, to fruiting cranberry bogs to prevent soil deterioration and decline in productive capacity of the land, at the following rates:

Practice No. 14.—RATE OF PAYMENT, \$7.50 per acre.

One-half inch of sand, evenly distributed.

Practice No. 15.—RATE OF PAYMENT, \$11.25 per acre.

Three-fourths inch of sand, evenly distributed.

Practice No. 16.—RATE OF PAYMENT, \$15 per acre.

One inch of sand, evenly distributed.

FOLLOWING A FARM PLAN

Practice No. 17.—RATE OF PAYMENT, \$10, and in addition, 5 cents per acre mapped; total payment not to exceed \$25 on any farm.

Developing a comprehensive conservation program for the farm. Requirements for payment for this practice include: (a) Preparing, in conference with the proper extension or conservation representatives, a plan for the uses and management of crop and pasture lands, and in certain cases woodlands; the plan to be submitted as an integral part of a general farm-management plan for the farm, covering a period of several years; (b) approval of the plan by the county committee as providing for satisfactory improvement in the economic use and conservation of the land; (c) submitting as background for the plan a map of the farm prepared according to specifications prescribed by the State committee; and (d) making in 1937 such a start in carrying out the plan as is approved by the county committee as satisfactory evidence that it has been adopted as a working program for the farm.

The map of the farm should include the whole farm.

Cropland should be measured by standard measuring equipment.

Field boundaries and acres in each field should be shown.

Fields should be named or numbered.

Maps should be drawn to scale and the scale shown on the map.

A copy of the map must be furnished for the county files.

The plan should include a statement of approximately the numbers of live-stock and acreages of crops intended over a period of several years, the crop rotation or system, with approximate amounts of lime and fertilizers intended, the pasture plan and, when desired, the plan for the handling of forests and maple orchards. It should state definitely the steps to be taken in 1937.

TOBACCO DIVERSION, TYPES 51 AND 52

PAYMENT FOR DIVERSION

Payment may be earned for diverting up to 15 percent of a farm's tobacco soil-depleting base. However, payment will be made only for the number of diverted acres matched by a 1937 acreage of soil-conserving crops which is above the soil-conserving base for the farm. For each acre so diverted from the tobacco soil-depleting base the payment will be 4 cents a pound times the normal tobacco yield per acre for the farm.

Soil-conserving base means the acreage represented by the difference between the total cropland (excluding commercial orchards, vineyards, bush fruits, and idle land) and the sum of the 1937 tobacco soil-depleting base and the general soil-depleting base which was or could have been established for the farm under the 1936 agricultural conservation program.

Tobacco soil-depleting base.—The tobacco soil-depleting base for a farm is the number of acres established as normally used on the farm for production of types 51 and 52 tobacco.

The 1937 tobacco soil-depleting base for any farm shall be the tobacco soil-depleting base which was or could have been established for such farm under the 1936 agricultural conservation program, subject to any adjustment which will result in equitable bases for all farms in the county for which tobacco bases are established. However, the tobacco soil-depleting base for any farm shall not be more than twice the acreage of tobacco grown in 1937.

Deductions for an acreage of tobacco in excess of the 1937 tobacco soil-depleting base.—If the 1937 acreage of tobacco exceeds the 1937 tobacco soil-depleting base, a deduction will be made, from any payment which otherwise would be made respecting the farm, for each acre of such excess at the rate of 4 cents per pound on the normal tobacco yield per acre.

SOIL-CONSERVING USE OF LAND

Land devoted to any of the crops listed below shall be regarded as used for the production of soil-conserving crops; however, any land from which any crop other than a soil-conserving crop is harvested in the same year shall not be regarded as having been used for the production of a soil-conserving crop in such year, except as provided below. If two or more soil-conserving crops are grown on the same land during any year the acreage of such land counted as soil-conserving shall not exceed the acreage on which such crops are grown.

The list of soil-conserving crops is as follows:

Sweet, medium red, alsike, white, and mammoth red clover, and alfalfa.

Vetch, winter peas, or bur or crimson clover.

Soybeans, except when harvested for grain or hay.

Sudan grass, millet, Italian ryegrass, and sorghums, not harvested for grain, hay, or forage.

Sowed corn and rape, when plowed or disked under.

Bluegrass, redtop, timothy, orchard grass, and mixtures of any of these.

Rye, oats, barley, wheat, buckwheat, and grain mixtures, not cut for grain or hay, *provided* a good growth is left on the land or plowed under.

Forest trees planted on cropland.

Annual varieties of lespedeza, crotalaria, velvetbeans and cowpeas when not harvested for grain or hay (Bermuda grass and carpet grass are also classified as soil-conserving crops but are not recommended for production in Massachusetts.)

Land devoted to any combination of soil-conserving crops and crops other than soil-conserving, listed in the following paragraph, shall be regarded as used for the production of a soil-conserving crop.

All the land from which a crop other than soil-conserving is harvested in 1937 and is followed by legumes classified as soil-conserving or by perennial grasses (whether seeded in or following such crop), shall be classified as in a soil-conserving use. All land on which green-manure crops are seeded following commercial vegetables and are plowed under as green-manure after having attained at least a 12-inch or 2 months' growth, shall be classified as in a soil-conserving use.

APPLYING FOR PAYMENT

To be eligible to participate in the 1937 agricultural conservation program, a farmer must make out all necessary forms and supply other necessary information. Forms and information shall be filed

with the County Committee within time limits established by the state committee with the approval of the Director of the Northeast Division, Agricultural Adjustment Administration.

Payment will be made only upon application on the proper form filed with the county committee within the time fixed by the Secretary of Agriculture, supported by any necessary information regarding farming operations.

An application for payment may be made by any producer who is entitled to receive all or a share of the crops or the proceeds of crops produced on the farm in 1937, or who incurs all or any part of the expense of soil-building practices carried out on the farm.

OTHER POINTS AFFECTING PAYMENT

RATES OF PAYMENT.—The rates of payment listed in this leaflet may be increased or decreased by not more than 10 percent, depending on how many farmers take part in the program.

APPROVAL REQUIRED.—Payment will be made only if a soil-building practice is in line with generally accepted standards of good farming. For that reason, every farmer who plans to carry out a soil-building practice should obtain prior approval from his county committee, to make sure that the practice is suitable to his farm, and that the materials and methods he plans to use are up to approved standards.

TIME LIMIT.—Payments under the 1937 program will be made only for practices carried out before December 1, 1937.

NO DUPLICATION OF PAYMENTS.—No payment will be made for a practice carried out on any acreage if labor, seed, or other material used in carrying out the practice is furnished free or paid for by a State or Federal agency.

INCREASE IN ACREAGE OF GENERAL SOIL-DEPLETING CROPS.—The Secretary of Agriculture reserves the right to make deductions from payments otherwise earned if in 1937 the acreage of general soil-depleting crops for the farm is larger than the acreage of such crops normally grown on the farm. The rate of deduction will be \$12.50 for each acre by which the 1937 acreage exceeds the normal acreage.

EXPENSES OF ASSOCIATIONS.—In computing payments, deductions will be made for county agricultural conservation association expenses.

1937 OPERATIONS MUST BE CONSISTENT WITH PROGRAM.—Payments may be withheld if any rotation, cropping system, or other practice which tends to defeat the purpose of the program is adopted in 1937.

OTHER GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS.—On any farm where a program is carried out in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service or the Resettlement Administration, payment will be made only for carrying out such soil-building practices as are, prior to performance, approved for the farm by the county committee in accordance with special instructions issued by the Secretary of Agriculture.

DIVISION OF PAYMENTS.—On farms where two or more producers are concerned, the soil-building payment shall be divided among them in proportion to each producer's share of the total expense of carrying out the soil-building practices.

The tobacco-diversion payment shall be divided among persons concerned in the proportion in which they share the tobacco, or proceeds of the tobacco, grown on the farm.

MEMBERSHIP IN ASSOCIATION

Any person having an interest in the crops or the proceeds of crops produced on any farm in the county in 1937 shall become a member of the County Agricultural Conservation Association of the county whenever any form or information required in connection with the Agricultural Conservation Program for 1937 is submitted for the farm in which he is interested, or whenever in 1937 he attends a meeting called for the purpose of electing committeemen. Any person shall cease to be a member of the Association if in 1937 he does not file an application for payment within the time specified by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Each county association shall designate a group of persons to assist in the administration of the 1937 program in the county. That group will be known as the county agricultural conservation committee, or county committee.

DEFINITIONS

CROPLAND is farm land which is tillable and on which at least one crop other than wild hay was harvested or planted for harvest between January 1, 1930, and January 1, 1937, and any other farm land devoted on January 1, 1937, to fruit orchards, vineyards, or cultivated bush fruits other than those abandoned.

COMMERCIAL ORCHARDS means the acreage in tree fruits, cultivated nut trees, vineyards, or cultivated bush fruits, including cranberries, on the farm on January 1, 1937, from which the principal part of the production is normally sold, including also the acreage of young nonbearing orchards from which the principal part of the production will be sold in 1937 or later.

COMMERCIAL VEGETABLES means vegetables or truck crops (including among others potatoes, sweetpotatoes, melons, cantaloups, and strawberries, but excluding sweet corn for canning and peas for canning), from which the principal part of the production was sold off the farm in 1936.

OPEN NONCROP PASTURE means fenced noncrop pasture land on which the predominant growth is forage suitable for dairy animals, and on which the number or grouping of any trees or shrubs is such that the land could not fairly be considered as woodland. Each 5 acres of such land must be capable of supporting at least one cow or one horse (or the equivalent in smaller animals) during the normal pasture season. Five sheep, five goats, two calves, or two colts are considered the equivalent of one cow or one horse.

